

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Timaru Boys' High School Memorial Library

ADDRESS 211 North Street, Timaru

PHOTOGRAPH



(TDC)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. HHI32 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 7491 / 1
(at time of assessment) Former No. 16

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt RS 2335

VALUATION NUMBER 2498126600

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1923-24

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Turnbull & Rule, architects; Malcolmson & Lund,
builders

STYLE Georgian Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with cruciform footprint and hipped roof forms. Symmetrical façade features a projecting entrance porch framed by fluted engaged columns and rusticated piers. Latter bear rondels and panels bearing dates (1914 & 1918) and battlefields of WWI. Arched door opening with semi-circular fanlight. Rusticated piers at building corners and dentilled eaves. External chimneybreasts at either end (west and east elevations). Constructional polychromy in brick, windows have Union Jack glazing bars. Memorial stained-glass window on north elevation.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, Oamaru stone, Marseilles tile.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Installation of World War II Roll of Honour (date unknown). Extension to the north and WWII memorial window installed (Turnbull & Rule, architects, 1955). Removal of library and change of use to school museum and archive (post-1971). Hip-roofed addition at north-west corner (1996).

SETTING

The memorial library stands on the north side of North Street, between Otipua Street to the west and Oxford Street to the east, not far from the northern end of Canada Street. To the north-west of the school property lies the Bluestone School. The extent of scheduling is the immediate environs of the library and includes the 1931 Jubilee gates.

HISTORY

Timaru Boys' High School was established in 1898, after Timaru High School (est. 1880) was divided into separate girls' and boys' schools on the same town site. In 1913 the boys' school relocated to its present North Street campus. A war memorial library was erected in 1923-24 in honour of those former pupils who had served and died in World War I. Fund raising amongst alumni and the school community commenced in 1918 and the library was opened by Governor-General Viscount Jellicoe on 20 March 1924. The library was planned to accommodate 150 boys and to house both the school library and a geographical laboratory and museum. Originally an octagonal bay opposite the entrance housed school cups and shields. The building was extended in 1955 and superseded by a new library in 1971. Since that time the memorial library has served as a school museum and archive; it continues to provide a focus for commemorative services on ANZAC Day.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Timaru Boys' High School Memorial Library has high historical and social significance for its association with the school's commemoration of World War I, as well as later conflicts, and the pattern across New Zealand of boys' schools erecting useful monuments to their war dead. The building is directly connected to the men, their families and descendants, who are honoured within the library. It also houses an archive relating to Olympic runner Jack Lovelock (1910-49), who attended TBHS from 1924 until 1928.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Timaru Boys' High School Memorial Library has high cultural significance as a place of community identity and historic continuity. The memorial has commemorative significance and is associated with the World War I service of 300 hundred former pupils, of whom 52 did not return. Rolls of Honour for World War I and World War II are housed within the building; 133 past pupils died in WWII and several who fought in Malaya are also named on the Roll of Honour.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Timaru Boys' High School Memorial Library has architectural significance as the work of Timaru architectural practice, Turnbull and Rule. Timaru-born James Turnbull (1864-1947) trained in Melbourne and then established a practice in Timaru in c.1895. The son of Richard Turnbull, a prominent Timaru businessman and politician, Turnbull also designed Job Brown's Beehive Stores (1901-2) in Temuka, Chalmers Church (1903-4, heritage item # 38) in Timaru, and a large number of Timaru houses. Turnbull went into partnership with Percy Watts Rule in c.1920, after which time Rule was the firm's principal designer. The practice designed the Temuka Public Library (1926-27, heritage item # 118), St James' Anglican Church at Franz Josef (1928-31) and Rule was awarded a Gold Medal from the NZ Institute of Architects for his design of the Surgical Wing at Timaru Hospital (1936-40) in 1939.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Timaru Boys' High School Memorial Library has craftsmanship significance for the quality of its brick masonry construction and ornamental detailing. The memorial window *Sir Gawain and New Zealand Servicemen* installed in 1955 was designed by Frederick Ellis of Wellington and made by Roy Miller in Dunedin.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Timaru Boys' High School Memorial Library has contextual significance for its prominence within the school campus and visibility from the public domain. The library is the oldest school building to survive on the campus, which is also noted for the 'Lovelock oak' and a memorial statue of the Olympic runner Jack Lovelock.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the library, as well as the school campus on which it is located, post-dates 1900 its site may have limited archaeological values.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Timaru Boys' High School Memorial Library has high overall significance to Timaru and Timaru district as a whole. The building has high historical and social significance for its association with Timaru Boys' High School and the school's commemoration of World War I and high cultural significance as a war memorial. Timaru Boys' High School Memorial Library has architectural significance for its design by leading Timaru architects Turnbull and Rule and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its brick and stone construction and detailing. Timaru Boys' High School Memorial Library has contextual significance as the school campus' most notable historic feature. As the building and campus post-date 1900 the library's site may have limited archaeological potential.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 3 February 1880, p. 2; 1 February 1913, p. 8; 19 June 1917, p. 11; 20 June 1918, p. 4; 17 April 1919, p. 8; 1 September 2017 (available online).
- *Press* 19 June 1923, p. 5; 26 June 1923, p. 7; 21 December 1923, p. 17; 4 March 1924, p. 6; 21 March 1924, pp. 7 & 10; 22 April 1930, p. 5.
- *Lyttelton Times* 23 September 1913, p. 5.
- *Wanganui Herald* 19 October 1897, p. 2.
- *West Coast Times* 31 October 1879, p. 2.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7491>
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/timaru-boys-high-school-war-memorial>
- <https://timaruboysschool.nz/about-us/heritage/>
- <http://www.timarucivictrust.co.nz/activities/timaru-boys-high-school-memorial-library>
- C Maclean & J Phillips *The Sorrow and the Pride – New Zealand War Memorials* Wellington, 1990.
- F Ciaran 'Stained Glass in Canterbury New Zealand, 1860-1988' PhD thesis, University of Canterbury, 1992.
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/4114/lovelock-john-edward>



Extent of scheduling, limited to immediate setting of the building but including the full extent of the road frontage, including the jubilee entrance gates (1931), 211 North Street, Timaru.



Land parcel as a whole, library marked by star.

